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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1945 SEP 26 PM 5 03
September 1945

The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MR. BENTON
OCT - 1 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Dear Mr. Byrnes:

Attached is a brief report we have recently prepared on the Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services. As it contains a short account of the background and activities of this Branch, I believe it will be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

WJD
William J. Donovan
Director

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NARS, Date 10-7-87
By *WJD*

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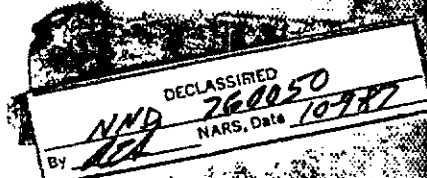
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Research and Analysis Branch was established under the Office of Coordinator of Information in July, 1941. To provide and process information in the volume and quality demanded by global warfare, a staff of skilled academic personnel, researchers and specialists was assembled. Today the Branch roster numbers 800 on duty in Washington and 400 overseas in the European and Far Eastern Theaters. "Customers" include the Joint U. S. Chiefs of Staff, armed forces headquarters and field commands, the State Department and other executive departments, UNRRA, the War Crimes Commission and the FEA.

Beginning with generalized summary reports on foreign countries, R&A shortly assumed responsibility for the preparation of a major share of the Army's "MIS Strategic Surveys." A predominant and sometimes exclusive role was played in the production of the "ONI Monographs" pertaining to the Pacific Islands. Detailed topographic studies were also developed. The survey of North Africa included a research project on the regional railroads so comprehensive that it was used by the U. S. Army Engineers in the organization of North African overland transport. The studies on Normandy, Brittany and Southern France were used in the preliminary invasion planning. R&A has contributed one third of the work involved in the preparation of Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Studies (JANIS), of which 24 have been completed to date.

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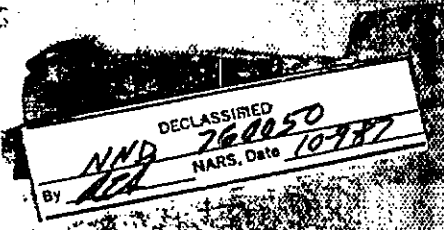
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The Washington Branch, called upon from its earliest days for specialized reports for specific customers, prepared analyses of political trends, synopses of current opinion and biographies of enemy nationals. A series of policy papers were developed for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and shorter reports for the Joint Target Group. In addition the R&A Branch has been the chief contributor to the JIC Weekly. A representative of the Branch has collaborated with the Strategic Survey Committee on a number of strategic papers.

The Map Division, combining one of the world's largest map libraries with a highly developed technique of functional evaluation, has served, among others, the State Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Marshall. As an integral part of the intelligence work of this agency, the Map Division's large staff of professional geographers and cartographers has produced more than six thousand original maps and distributed over five million map copies. It was able to fill substantially all of the cartographic requirements of the American delegations at Cairo, Quebec and San Francisco.

Throughout the war, R&A staffs have been on duty at principal American or Allied Theater headquarters. In London strategic analyses of the enemy's economic situation were compiled and estimates made of his food resources, oil supply and military production as affected by Allied

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bombing. In this work R&A pioneered a new technique of estimating enemy losses. These estimates formed the basis of target priority lists and were heavily relied on by AAF and RAF planners. At Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers and later at Caserta R&A participated in detailed target priority evaluation as well as order of battle analysis. The first exploitation of the wealth of information on the enemy oil situation laid open by the sudden capitulation of Roumania was made by five R&A target analysis officers. They provided first-hand intelligence on the results of the Ploesti bombings, on enemy oil production and on the destination of oil shipments as well as establishing new target priorities. Information thus made available showed that R&A oil estimates had been accurate to within five per cent. In Burma R&A shared the responsibility for the tactical planning of the British advance. Field men of the Branch in China selected targets for the 14th Air Force and furnished the Theater Command specialized topographic and economic studies for use in strategic planning.

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Reports on the political climate in occupied and enemy countries were developed by R&A men at the various Theater headquarters and as members of OSS teams in Athens, Sofia, Bucharest, Belgrade as well as in northern Italy, France, Austria and Germany. Some of these teams in many instances preceded military and diplomatic personnel into Russian-liberated territory and, as their sources were restricted

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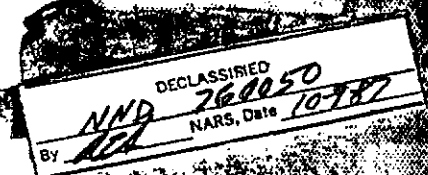
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by neither military channels nor diplomatic protocol, their reports added an additional dimension in the field of political observation. The "European Political Review," published and circulated to special "customers" throughout the European Theater from December 1944 to June 1945, provided American military and civil affairs officers a political yardstick on which to scale their operational planning for succeeding months. To the Army Civil Affairs and Military Government programs R&A has also furnished the special biographical lists used in the selection of reliable local personnel to fill government positions in occupied regions. The Branch prepared the original Civil Affairs Handbooks and contributed to the AMG training program at Charlottesville. The larger part of the extensive series of Civil Affairs Guides was prepared by the Branch. At the Civil Affairs Staging Area in Monterey detailed problems of military occupation of Japan were worked out; and, at present, a series of Civil Affairs Handbooks on Japan are being rushed to completion.

The USSR Division, by combining trends developed from an exhaustive knowledge of Russia with currently available information, has been able to predict many of Russia's most important policy decisions. It has thoroughly studied and reported with remarkable accuracy her capabilities and intentions. Special analyses have been made of grain stocks,

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ammunition supply, port capacities, airfields and rail transportation. In March 1944 the Division predicted to the day the length of time between VE-Day and Russia's declaration of war on Japan. The USSR handbook now used by American officers working with Soviet citizens was written by this Division.

So did anybody else!

At the request of the State Department, the Latin American Division prepared the dossiers on Argentina for the American delegation at Mexico City. It has also published studies of current instabilities in Latin America, the growth of Argentine power in 1944, the rise of the Sinarquista movement in Mexico and the Nazi use of anti-Semitism in Latin America. At present the Latin American Division is preparing basic studies of the major Latin American countries for the State Department.

The end of the war has brought an abrupt shift of emphasis in R&A activities. Intelligence research facilities are now occupied largely with the objectives of the War Crimes Commission, Reparations Commission and the coordinated "Safehaven" project. To build a foundation for future and long-range intelligence operations, the present Branch effort is designed to establish permanent, readily accessible sources of intelligence not otherwise obtainable. Captured enemy archives and official records are being examined and, in cooperation with the Field Photographic Branch of OSS,

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detailed strategic photographic coverage of western Europe, the Near East and China is being made. These efforts, in combination with R&A's many other activities, represent substantial progress made toward the ultimate intelligence target, a thorough knowledge of the other great powers' capabilities and intentions, on which the strategic decisions of this nation will be based.


William J. Donovan
Director

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